Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED),

AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, No. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

PHILADELPHIA.

The Price is three cents per copy (double sheet), or eighteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1871.

The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 1 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 21, 31, and 41. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

HOW OUR NATIONAL FINANCES ARE MANAGED.

A NEW Japanese embassy, headed by a Japanese Assistant Minister of Finance, has arrived at Washington for the purpose of making minute investigations into the financial policy of this country, and the general management of the public funds. Jushe Hirobumie Ite, who is the leader of this mission, will find much to admire in the organization of the Treasury Department and its diversified branches. He will discover that admirable plans have been devised for the collection, safe-keeping, and disbursement of thousands of millions of dollars; that a series of checks and counter-checks make vulgar defalcations nearly impossible; and that immense numbers of huge accounts are correctly adjusted. He will behold wonderful evidences of the capacity of the people to endure onerous taxation, of an unfaltering determination to maintain the public credit, and of fidelity, in many quarters, in

matters relating to the receipts and expenditures of the Government. If the Honorable Jushe Hirobumie Ito stops after making these investigations, he will carry back with him to Japan the impression that we have discovered the secret hidden from all other wealthy nations, of spending the public money solely for the public good; of putting on taxation only to the extent absolutely required; of spending money only where expenditure is imperatively necessary; and of guarding the national treasure as vigilantly as the miser guards his worshipped heard. But the Honorable Ito will commit a sad error if he prematurely adopts such conclusions. He will have to look beneath the mere machinery by which money is collected and paid out, to the influences that mould the laws and issue the orders under which payments are made, before he can fathom the secret springs of the financial policy of the United States. He will have to comprehend that while Congress theoretically holds the purse-strings, it necessarily intrusts practical disbursements to various executive officials, and by the time he understands how these officials occasionally exercise the discretionary power with which they are endowed, he will see that there is a good deal of human nature in man on this side of the wide waters of the Pacific as well as in Ormus or in Ind. Travellers have affirmed that in the domains of some despotic Oriental princes the approaches to power were guarded by such an exacting set of intermediate officials that it could be set down as a rule that articles for which the vender received but a dollar usually drew ten dollars from the strong-box of the prince. We have got nothing quite so bad as this, as a regular system, in this country, but in some ramifications of American government there are dangerous approaches to it. To an unscrupulous man who possesses superabundant political influence in the United States, all the laws on the statute-books and all the checks of the Treasury Department furnish but feeble safeguards for the public treasure. The golden apples cannot easily be stolen by uninfluential thieves; but if a smooth-tongued and plausible pilferer happens to have the ear of a Cabinet minister, the special favor of the head of an important bureau, or the power to smuggle a few insidious clauses into an appropriation bill, it is wonderful how quickly fortunes may be made out of airy nothings, and how speedily vast sums disappear from the Treasury for which the American people receive no substantial equivalent. Take the case exposed in the House of Representatives a few days ago by Mr. Dawes, as an illustration-we mean the Chorpenning case. The Honorable Ito will find it hard to discover a parallel in all the annals of corruption in Japan, China, or India. Thirteen years after a mail contractor has completed his contract, and got all the money to which he was legitimately entitled, he is only prevented,

accident, from

fortunate

pocketing half a million dollars of the peo-

ple's money on a pretext so flimsy that it is

not worth a moment's consideration! They

cannot de much worse than this under any

system of extortion that the genius of

Asiatic official corruption can invent. For-

tunately, the contemplated wrong seems in

this instance to have been arrested, but the

mere fact that it was so nearly consummated

may well make the American people shudder

with the fear that from time to time similar

schemes are completely successful; and that,

as the years roll on, official corruption in-

creases with frightful rapidity.

THE LOSSES IN THE WAR.

WHEN Napoleon started upon his grand crusade against Prussia last summer, it was with the openly avowed purpose of celebrating the fete day of his uncle in Berlin. But, while the 15th of August found the Emperor himself a fugitive from Metz, and his principal army just entering upon a fruitless struggle to get away from the Moselle in the direction of Paris, the advance guard of the French had entered the Prussian capital on the 3th of August, net as conquerors, but as prisoners of war. They were the heralds of a grand hegira, the forerunners of a captive multitude which was destined, in less than five months, to exceed the third of a million in

According to official returns there were, on the 13th of October, 3577 officers and 123,700 men held as prisoners of war in Germany. By the 28th of October the number had been increased to 173,000, including three Marshals of the Empire and about 6000 officers. On the 28th of November the number was swelled to 15,253 officers and 303,842 men, and by the 1st of January the number was reported at 11,160 officers and 333,885 men. There is here a slight discrepancy in the figures, but the captive host was so numerous that a few thousands more or less are of but little account. While it is impossible to give the exact number captured previous to the fall of Paris, with the battle or siege in which they were taken, we present the following statement, made up from the reports published from time to time, the official figures. being given in all cases in which they have been announced:-

ĸ.	At weissenourg	1,000
	At Woerth	6,000
	At Forbach	2,500
	Around Metz	5,000
	At Vitry	850
	At Sedan, before capitulation	25,000
d	At Sedan, by the capitulation	36,793
	At Laon	2,000
	At Toul	2,500
	At Strasburg	
М	At Soissons.	4,725
Ų.	At Schlestadt	2,400
	By the capitulation of Metz	55,000
	At Thionville	5,000
e.	By the first capture of Orleans,	6,000
	At Verdun	4,000
	At Neuf Breisach	5,000
	At Pfalsburg	1,839
	By the second capture of Orieans	10,000
l I	At Montmedy	3,000
	At Nuite	600
	In the pursuit to Le Mans	10.000
	In the battles of Le Mans	99,000
	At Mezieres	2,000
2	At Peronne	3,900
ø	At Villersexel	800
	Around Belfort	2,000
	At St. Quentia	9,000
	At Longwy	3,800
4	***************************************	-,000
ul	Making a total of	94.810
	TOL OF THE STATE OF	

The officers are not in all cases distinguished from the soldiers, and it is impossible to give in detail the number of the former captured. The grand total of 396,800, which is probably but slightly in excess of the true figures, includes only the unwounded prisoners taken previous to the fall of Paris, and exclusive of those captured during the siege of that city, the aggregate French loss being swelled to still more startling proportions by adding the number of killed and wounded. A low estimate of the killed and wounded gives the following result:-

	In the battles and retreat from Weissenburg to the Moselle	
l	In the battles around Metz	25,00
ì	In the siege of Metz	15,00
	In the battles around Orleans	10,000
	In the battles around Belfort	10,00
ĺ	In the battles around Paris	10,00
ļ		156 00

Placing the aggregate number of unwounded prisoners at 390,000, we have an aggregate French loss, since the commencement of hostilities, and exclusive of the captures at Paris, of 546,000.

It is impossible to arrive at the extent of the loss sustained by the Germans, and difficult even to approximate to it. During the earlier period of the war, especially in the battles in the open field which preceded the capitulation of Sedan, the French fire was even more effective than that of the Germans, and the loss sustained by the latter in killed and wounded was doubless greater than that of their antagonists. But when the war assumed its second aspect—that of a struggle for the possession of the cities and fortresses -there was a material change, and taken altogether, the aggregate German loss in killed and wounded is probably not greater than that of the French, while it will doubtless be found to equal it. In the matter of prisoners, however, the German losses have been so insignificant as scarcely to affect their aggregate loss. The official reports showed that up to the 4th of October the Germans had sustained a loss of 522 officers and 7675 men killed, 1553 officers and 32,945 men wounded, and 124 officers and 5860 men missing-a total loss of 2194 officers and 46,489 men. Reports published about the 10th of December place the German loss in killed and wounded at 3818 officers and 59,025 men, and in missing at 41 officers and 7061 men-a total loss of 3859 officers and 66,086 men. These figures do not, however, include the two Bavarian and one Wurtemberg corps and the division of Hesse-Darmstadt, which suffered perhaps more than any other portions of the German army. The figures are doubtless understated, and a fair estimate will not place the German loss below 150,000.

It is by a contemplation of these figures that we arrive at a just conception of the magnitude and destructiveness of the struggle which was precipitated upon Europe by the anxiety of General Prim to fill the vacant throne of Spain. But the candidature of Prince Leopold was merely the pretext seized upon by the ex-Emperor of the French for an assault upon Prussia for what he was pleased to regard as her aggrandizing policy. The haste with which he rushed into the unequal contest, together with the complete demoralization of the army and people of France which the policy of his reign had wrought, cost him his sceptre, for which France has profound cause to be grateful. The marvellous success which has attended the German arms from first to last has given to the Fatherland the realization of that grand idea of German unity for which her people have been longing for years, and in this view of the subject, the war has been

productive of the most beneficial results. But when we come to contemplate the 300,000 killed and wounded on both sides, and the desolation of one of the fairest sections of Europe, we may well doubt the equality of the fruits of the war with the terrible sacrifices of blood and property by which they have been purchased.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS. THE bill introduced some days ago in the State, House of Representatives by Mr. Miller, to forbid the erection of the public buildings at the intersection of Broad and Market streets, was yes erday reported back to the House by the Committee on Manicipal Corporations with a negative recommendation. The report of the committee is a brief but comprehensive review of the whole question, and is an able argument against any such interference with the Building Commission as is contemplated in Mr. Miller's bill. In regard to the allegation that the citizens of Philadelphia were induced to vote for the Penn Square site by misrepresentations, the report makes this statement of the facts of the case, a statement that those who have advocated the erection of the public buildings upon Washington and Independence Squares know to be true in every particular. The report says:-"It appears that on the Wednesday preceding the

election the opponents of Penn Square had sent by mall to each of the voters of the city of Philadelphia a printed circular containing a wood-cut of the public buildings located in the centre of Penn Square, which presented a very unfair representation of the obstruction of Broad and Market streets, and which circular asserts that the plan thereon printed was a faithful drawing of what was contem-plated by the commissioners.

This circular and diagrams were also published in the daily newspapers, and in large playards posted in public places. The commissioners, deeming it their duty to the public to disavow the adop-tion of this plan and the authorship of the language quoted against them in the circulars, met two days after the issuing of this document and passed the

following resolution:

"Resolved, That the officers of this commission be directed to publish, through the public press, the fact that ne action has been taken by the board touching the location of the public buildings at the intersection of Broad and Market streets, and that the commission is empowered by act of As-sembly either to locate separate buildings upon the four squares, or one building at the intersec-tion, as the majority of the commission may de-

"Thus for several days before the election the citizens of Phiadelphia were informed by circulars, oy posters, by advertisements, and by the official declaration of the commissioners themselves, that the buildings would be erected at the intersection if a majority of the commissioners so determine, and in the face of this information they cast over threefifths of their votes for Penn Square.

"it would seem a libel upon the intelligence of the people of the metropolis of the State to assert that they voted in the dark for want of proper infor-

Considering the wishes of a majority of the voters of the city of Philadelphia as having been clearly and unmistakably expressed, the report then goes on to show the enormous advantages that one building would have over four. It states that according to the affidavits of the architect, and the drawings submitted to the commission, a single building will cover an area of twenty-four thousand five hundred and thirty-five square feet more than four buildings, and yet the four buildings will require a frontage of two thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight feet more than a single building, thus increasing the expense fifteen or twenty per cent., and at the same time considerably contracting the accommodations. If four buildings are erected, the court-rooms will be obliged to obtain light and air from the sides fronting noisy thoroughfares, whereas in a single building light and ventilation will be obtained from the interior court-yard. Four buildings will require four distinct sets of heating apparatus, and every annual expense incident to a public building will be quadrupled.

The statement of the case made in this report from the Committee on Municipal Gorporations ought to be sufficient to put a stop to any further agitation of the subject in the Legislature and to any further attempts to interfere with the commissioners. The clamor against placing the public buildings at the intersection of Broad and Market streets comes entirely from parties who are interested in other sites, and who neither want one building nor four upon Penn Square. To yield to this clamor and to erect four buildings instead of one would be to produce a botched job that every citizen of Philadelphia would be ashamed of before it would be half finished, and that would never give satisfaction to any one. It is the plain duty, therefore, of the Legislature to refuse to listen to any further discussion of the public buildings controversy, and to sustain the verdict of the people of Philadelphia as expressed by the very decided vote of last

THE murderer of Mary Mohrmann to-day suffered the penalty of his crime; and dreadful as was his down, none who remember the fiendish act of which he was guilty can say that it was undeserved. For many long months the murderer succeeded in defying the officers of the law, and his detection was considered almost hopeless, when a series of circumstances occurred which strongly confirmed the suspicions that had already been excited against him, and finally the whole revolting story of the murder was rehearsed by the one person who knew all about it-John Hanlon himself. Unable to keep his secret, he told it to a fellow convict, and the testimony of this man, Dunn, was confirmed in such a manner by the evidence of other witnesses that not shadow of a doubt remained in regard to Hanlon's guilt. The mystery of the murder of Mary Mohrmann, that at one time appeared to be impenetrable, has been cleared up, and to-day outraged justice has claimed its victim, and Hanlon has suffered an ignominious death upon the gallows as a wretch unfit to live among his fellow men.

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[Por additional Auctions see the Seventh Page.]

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Goods will be open for examination, with catalogues, on Wednesday, Feb. 1. N. B.-Buyers will find this sale especially attractive, as every sample package of Domestics will be sold ENTIRE AND WITHOUT RESERVE. 1t

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At 9 o clock, at the auction store, No. 1110 Chesnut street, will be sold, a large assortment of well made Furniture, both new and secondhaud, comprising— Walnut parlor and library suits, covered with fine plush reps, terry and haircloth; champer furniture of latest designs, with wardrobes to match, oak and walnut dining-room furniture, planos, mirrors carpets, chairs of various kinds, china, glassware At 1 o'clock, will be sold-

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nut street, we will sell a large assortment of elegant first-class parlor, chamber, dining-room, and library jurniture, manufactured by Mr. A. Barlow expressly furniture, manufactured by the formula of the furniture will be arranged for exhibition at the auction store on Monday, when catalogues will 215t

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at 7% o'clock. On account of the inclemency of the weather the preceding evenings the sale of OIL PAINTINGS will be continued THIS EVENING at 7% o'clock at the Art Gallery, No. 841 CHESNUT Street. The balance of the ca'alogue embraces many works of rare merit and wall be sold without

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For additional Amusements see the Third Page.} WALNUT STREET THEATRE.
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